

REMARKS

The Restriction Requirement mailed March 25, 2003 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. In response and in review of the claims, Applicants have cancelled claims 19, 34, 35, 47, 49 and 72.

The Examiner has indicated that the application contains claims directed to distinct species represented in Figs. 3-4, and Fig. 5.

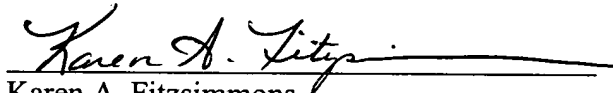
Applicants hereby elect the claims directed to the species represented in FIG. 5. Claims 1-5, 8-18, 20, 23-33, 36-46, 48, 50-58, 61-71, 73, and 75-79 read on the elected species. Applicant wishes to maintain pendency of the remaining claims 6-7, 21, 59-60, and 74 in the event an independent generic claim is allowed. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 55 is an independent generic claim to at least both species represented in Figs. 3-4 and 5.

Examination on the merits is respectfully requested. The Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney at 612.371.5340 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: April 21, 2003


Karen A. Fitzsimmons
Reg. No. 50,470
KAF:PSTklg/pmc